

Reply to Office Action of December 07, 2005
Amendment Dated: February 14, 2006

Appl. No.: 09/910,936
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-006/2879

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were examined in the office action dated December 07, 2005. Claims 1, 8, 14 and 20 are sought to be amended by virtue of this amendment. The amendments are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

5 Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested further in view of the following remarks.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-2, 8-9, 14-15 and 20-21 were rejected under USC 102(e) as being anticipated by both Liu *et al* (2002/0114319) and Luciani (6,331,984).

10 Applicants assert that the claims, at least as sought to be amended are allowable over Luciani, and swear behind the Liu reference as explained below.

With respect to Luciani, currently amended claim 1 recites in relevant parts, "...said forwarding information specifying one of said plurality of physical ports for forwarding said packet".

15 Luciani does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

In particular, the examiner appears to rely on the "port" field (205 in Figure 2) of Luciani in rejecting claim 1. However, the port numbers of Luciani appear to refer to the specific transport layer port number (e.g, User Datagram Protocol (UDP) or Transport Control Protocol (TCP) port number) associated with the local and global IP addresses (210 and 220 in Figure 2 of Luciani), and specify the type of service for the corresponding session.

20 Accordingly, the term port of Luciani does not anticipate a physical port as recited in currently amended claim 1.

Thus, amended claim 1 is allowable over Luciani. The remaining independent claims are also allowable over Luciani for similar reasons. The dependent claims are allowable at

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least as depending from corresponding allowable base claim.

Swearing Behind Liu

Applicants swear behind Liu reference as provided under 37 CFR § 1.131 entitled
"Affidavit or Declaration of prior invention" by submitting a declaration (hereafter
5 "declaration") according to the procedure further outlined in 37 CFR § 131(b) and MPEP §
715.

As noted there at §715.07(C), one of the ways to swear behind requires showing of:
(1) conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference; (2) coupled with
due diligence from prior to the reference date to the filing date of the application
10 (constructive reduction to practice.

The effective date of the reference to be overcome is February 20 2001, the filing date
of Liu.

The date of conception is established by Exhibit A in combination with the
declarations of the undersigned representative and Mr. Phadnis.

15 Diligence from prior to the reference date (February 20 2001) to the filing date of the
subject application (July 24 2001) is established by the affidavits of the undersigned
representative and Mr. Phadnis. The absence of the joint-inventors in the affidavit is believed
to be excused in view of the basis provided in the previous response.

20 Withdrawal of the Liu as prior art is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is allowable over both Liu and Luciani. The remaining
amended independent claims are also believed to be allowable, at least for one or more
reasons noted above. All the dependent claims are also allowable at least as depending from
an allowable base claim.

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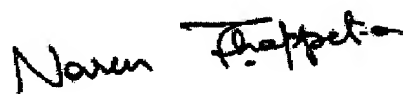
Appl. No.: 09/910,936
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-006/2879

Rejected claims are allowable over the art of record as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of remarks above.

Conclusion

5 Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome, at least in view of the above amendments and remarks, and that all the presented claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



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